

MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIRED SOLDIERS COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 10 July 2014, meeting of the Fort Hood Retired Soldiers Council convened at 1130 hours at the Spirit of Fort Hood Warrior and Family Chapel, Fort Hood, Texas.

2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present:

GEN (Ret) Griffin, Chairman	SFC (Ret) Moore, Member
GEN (Ret) Thurman, New Chairman	Ms. Roupe, Member
CSM (Ret) King, Jr., Co-Chairman	COL (Ret) Oliver, Jr., Assoc. Member
COL (Ret) Phelps, Member	COL (Ret) Portmann, Hon Member
LTC (Ret) Christ, Member	LTC (Ret) Woodward, Hon Member
LTC (Ret) MacMillan, Secretary	
CSM (Ret) Small, Member	
CSM (Ret) Bobb, Member	
CSM (Ret) Waller, Member	
SGM (Ret) Lopez, Member	

b. Members Absent:

CSM (Ret) Minosky, Member	COL (Ret) Somera, Hon Member
CMCPO (Ret) Hall, Member	SCPO (Ret) Lubasky, Hon Member
SFC (Ret) Evans-Quickley, Member	1SG (Ret) Fisher, Hon Member
CW3 (Ret) Hanger, Assoc. Member	
Ms. Greathouse, Assoc. Member	

3. The Co-Chairman, GEN (Ret) Griffin called the meeting to order at 1146 hours and welcomed the council. He introduced GEN (Ret) Thurman stating that he would be taking his place. CSM (Ret) King introduced LTC (Ret) Pierce, a new member of the Council. Mr. Phil Foster, Garrison Administrative Law Attorney, and Mr. Jim Lewis, the Installation AG, were also introduced. GEN (Ret) Griffin had everyone in attendance introduce themselves. Stating what a great Council this is as it gets things done, GEN (Ret) Griffin thanked everyone for their work. He added it was a pleasure to serve on the Council with everyone. GEN (Ret) Griffin then turned the Council over to GEN (Ret) Thurman.

GEN (Ret) Thurman thanked everyone for their service. He stated he wants to learn and listen to be able to carry our word forward. In addition, GEN (Ret) Thurman said he wants to look after Retired Soldiers and Soldiers ensuring everything is done above board and legally.

CSM (Ret) King welcomed GEN (Ret) Thurman on behalf of the Council.

4. Topics of discussion for this meeting:

The primary discussion for this meeting was the introduction of GEN (Ret) Thurman as the new Retired Soldier Council Co-Chairman and the new Council Member, LTC (Ret) Pierce. In addition, there was some discussion regarding Retired Soldier Appreciation Day (RAD). CSM (Ret) Bobb said they would hold a special meeting for RAD planning and execution. She asked about the possibility of getting special group pricing for hotels in the area for Retired Soldiers spending a night locally to attend the RAD. Mr. Foster

said no, you cannot show favoritism; you must list all hotels and let visitors decide where to stay.

5. Individual Council Member Updates:

- Health Care Advisory Council Update. CSM (Ret) Waller reported the new hospital is on track to open late summer of 2015. Transitioning to the new hospital will be done over a period of time. The old hospital will be used for other community activities.

CSM (Ret) King commented that we will start seeing a push for Retired Soldiers and veterans to once again use the on post health care facilities to save money. He also said by 2017 we will see a 100% increase from the original cost of medical coverage.

- Legal Questions/Advice. Mr. Phil Foster offered to answer any questions regarding gift cards and donations towards Retired Soldier Council activities. He stated that as a Retired Soldier Council we cannot do any active solicitation. Mr. Foster said we need to go through the Retirement Services Office (RSO) and he will review all related actions to ensure they are legal. CSM (Ret) King said it is easy to get into trouble with this so remember what we do is on behalf of the Corps Commander. Mrs. Bedgood said AAFES has provided door prizes for the Retired Soldier Appreciation Day (RAD) opening ceremony.
- Benefits Update. CSM (Ret) King reported that Fort Hood was selected as a regional site for Veterans Day. CSM (Ret) King talked about the new Army theme, Soldiers for Life Program. He said we all need to support it.
- Installation Update. CSM (Ret) Bobb dispersed several handouts regarding the various installation activities. She pointed out key notes on page 5 regarding tornado preparedness. There will be a Commissary Case Lot Sale at Clear Creek will be 28-30 August, and the Warrior Way Case Lot Sale will be 15-17 August. She said there are no AAFES/DECA meetings right now due to the changes in leadership.
- AAFES/PX Council Update: LTC (Ret) MacMillan reported the new PX is on track to open in March 2015.
- Commissary/DECA Council Update: No Report.

6. Final comments:

- CSM (Ret) King brought up RAD stating we need to identify a guest speaker for the opening ceremony and need nominations for Retired Soldier of the Year. He said he would send out an email regarding Retired Soldier of the Year and asked members to send recommendations for guest speakers. COL (Ret) Portmann asked if the Retired Soldier has to be Army or any service. He was told it can be

any service. Note: that MSG (Ret) Michael Rhoden has since been selected as our 2014 Honorary Retired Soldier of the Year.

- SGM (Ret) Lopez asked if we would be using the same evaluation sheets for the RAD activities this year. CSM (Ret) Bobb said yes we will be using the evaluation sheets again this year.
- Ms. Roupe reported that the Survivors Outreach Center, SOC, has greatly improved. They are now publishing monthly calendars showing events, which include multiple activities per week rather than one activity a month. The SOC Council is now holding monthly meetings on and off post for Surviving families to come together to voice concerns and to bring up any problems they are experiencing.

The Survivor Council new name is now called SIM, Survivor in Motion, where they are working to do more so families get the help they need locally rather than having to travel to Fort Sam Houston for assistance. Ms. Roupe brought up the Gold Star Passes and how the gate guards do not know what the Gold Star stickers are. She asked that the guards be educated regarding the stickers. This has been an ongoing problem for Gold Star Families.

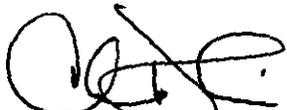
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) will be hosting a TAPS seminar at Fort Hood on July 25-27 at the Spirit of Fort Hood Warrior and Family Chapel. There are 500 to 700 surviving families scheduled to attend. Fort Hood Survivor Outreach Center does not have a TAPS representative located at the SOS Center anymore though a TAPS Coordinator is on site now to coordinate the TAPS Seminar. Mrs. Roupe's understanding from SOS Center is that they will not fill this slot.

- The Council voted to approve LTC (Ret) Pierce as a new member of the Council.
- GEN (Ret) Thurman asked if there was any other business to discuss. He stated he looks forward to working with everyone and if there is something he can do to let him know. He reiterated what CSM (Ret) King said about the Soldier for Life Program. He stated don't solicit for gifts or donations. In addition, he said he was glad Ms. Roupe brought up the surviving Spouses that Fort Hood has had the most losses than anywhere. The next meeting will be held on 9 Oct 2014.

7. GEN (Ret) Thurman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He closed the meeting at 1300 hours, stating Soldiers for Life; we must speak by our actions.


GEN (Ret) James D. Thurman
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved



Christopher M. Doneski
Colonel, GS
Deputy Chief of Staff